Please amend Claims 1-13, 15, 17-30, 32, and 34-52 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

comparing means for comparing image resolution of ~~an~~ input image data and information of a predetermined standard resolution;

judging means for judging whether the image data includes specific information related to copy protection; and

controlling means for controlling ~~not to work the~~ whether said judging means performs the judging based on the ~~basis of the~~ result of the comparing by said comparing means.

2. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus ~~comprising~~ according to claim 1, wherein said judging means comprises means for performing the judging using ~~process is performed by~~ a software process.

3. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus ~~comprising~~ according to claim 1, wherein said specific information ~~is comprised~~ comprises a digital watermark.

4. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus ~~comprising~~ according to claim 1 further comprising, checking means for ~~checking said~~ determining if the input

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image data is being a copy-prohibited object based on a result of the judging by said

judging means in the case where the resolution of the input image data is at least resolution

of said input image data is as large as the a predetermined standard resolution.

5. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 4,

wherein said image data is output as [[a]] processed image data on the basis of based on a

result from said checking means result; and

wherein said processed image data is not equal to said input image data.

6. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 5,

wherein a destination of the said output image data is a storage media or a printer or a

network.

7. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 5,

wherein an output of the said image data is prevented based on a result from stopped on the

basis of said checking result means.

8. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein said control means controls not to work the determines that said judging means

should not initiate judging when the in case resolution of said input image data is at least as

large as a the predetermined standard resolution.

9. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein <u>in a case where information is attached to</u> said input image data <u>said controlling means controls</u> ~~is attached with information and a judgment of~~ said judging means <u>not to perform judging when the</u> ~~is not performed in case~~ resolution of said input image data is <u>greater than a a first</u> ~~as large as the~~ predetermined standard resolution and <u>less than</u> ~~is not as large as~~ a second predetermined standard resolution.

10. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said information is a product number of a personal computer or a product number of a scanner which is a part of the image process apparatus or <u>a</u> user's ID information.

11. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said ~~attachment of~~ information is <u>attached to the image data as a</u> ~~performed by~~ digital watermark or by non-visible color information.

12. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said information <u>is</u> attached <u>to the</u> ~~in said~~ input image data in <u>the</u> case <u>when</u> said input image is not <u>a</u> ~~said~~ copy-prohibited object .

13. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein <u>the judging by said judging means is performed using</u> image data <u>having a</u> ~~of an image~~ resolution less than said predetermined <u>standard</u> ~~image~~ resolution ~~is used for said~~

judgment of said judging means.

14. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said specific information is a color spectrum distribution or an image pattern.

15. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said <u>control means controls said</u> judging means <u>to perform judging when</u> is controlled to judge in case resolution of said input image data is <u>greater than a first predetermined standard resolution and less than a second predetermined standard resolution</u> as large as the predetermined standard resolution and is not as large as a second predetermined standard resolution.

16. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input image data is input from a scanner or a storage media or a network.

17. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein information <u>specifying a particular</u> for a specified one of said storage media is attached to said input image data in case <u>when</u> said input image data is input from the <u>particular</u> storage medium; and

wherein information <u>specifying</u> for a specified one of a network address of a sender of said input image data and/or a network address of a receiver of said input image data is attached to said input image data <u>when</u> in case said input image data is <u>received</u>

~input~ from a ~the~ network.

18. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:

comparing image resolution of [[an]] input image data and information of a predetermined standard resolution;

judging whether the image data includes specific information relating to copy protection; and

determining whether said judging step should be initiated based on the results of said comparing step ~wherein the image process method control not to work the judging on the basis of the result of the comparing~.

19. (Currently Amended) An image processing method ~comprising~ according to claim 18, wherein the judging process is performed by a software process.

20. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising according to claim 18, wherein said specific information ~is comprised of~ comprises a digital watermark.

21. (Currently Amended) An image processing method ~comprising~ according to claim 18 further comprising, checking whether said input image data is ~being~ a copy-prohibited object based on a result of said judging step in the case where the resolution of said input image data is at least as large as the predetermined standard resolution.

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22. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 21, wherein said image data is output as [[a]] processed image data based on a result ~~on the basis~~ of said checking ~~result~~ step;

wherein said processed image data is not equal to said input image data.

23. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 22, wherein a destination of ~~said~~ the output image data is a storage media or a printer or a network.

24. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 22, wherein [[an]] output of said image data is prevented based on a result ~~stopped on the basis~~ of said checking ~~result~~ step.

25. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 18, wherein said image processing method determines that the judging should not be initiated when ~~controls not to work the judging means in case~~ resolution of said input image data is at least as large as the predetermined standard resolution.

26. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 18, wherein in a case where information is attached to said input image data ~~is attached with information and a judgment of said~~ judging is not performed ~~in case~~ when resolution of said input image data is at least as large as ~~the~~ a first predetermined standard resolution and

is ~~not as large as~~ <u>less than</u> a second predetermined standard resolution.

27. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim [[22]] <u>26</u>, wherein said information is a product number of a personal computer or a product number of a scanner which is a part of an image ~~process~~ <u>processing</u> apparatus performing said image processing method or <u>a</u> user's ID information.

28. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim [[25]] <u>26</u>, wherein <u>the information is attached to the input image data as a</u> ~~said attachment or addition of information is performed by~~ digital watermark or [[by]] non-visible color information.

29. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 22, wherein information <u>is</u> attached ~~in~~ <u>to</u> said input image data in <u>the</u> case <u>where</u> said input image is not ~~said~~ <u>a</u> copy-prohibited object.

30. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 18, wherein <u>the judging is performed using</u> image data ~~of~~ <u>having</u> an image resolution less than said predetermined <u>standard</u> image resolution ~~is used for said judgment of said judging~~.

31. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to claim 18, wherein said specific information is a color spectrum distribution or an image pattern.

32. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 18, wherein ~~a judgment by~~ said judging is <u>initiated when</u> ~~controlled to judge in case~~ resolution of said input image data is <u>at least</u> as large as ~~the~~ <u>a first</u> predetermined standard resolution and is ~~not as large as~~ <u>less than</u> a second predetermined standard resolution.

33. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to claim 18, wherein said input image data is input from a scanner or a storage media or a network.

34. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 31, wherein information ~~for a specified one of said~~ <u>specifying a particular</u> storage media is attached to said input image data ~~in case~~ <u>when</u> said input image data is input from the <u>particular</u> storage media; and

wherein information ~~for a specified one of~~ <u>specifying</u> a network address of a sender of said input image data and/or a network address of a receiver of said input image data is attached to said input image data ~~in case~~ <u>when</u> said input image data is <u>received</u> ~~input~~ from ~~the~~ <u>a</u> network.

35. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising a computer readable medium having computer program codes, for executing image processing, said product including:

<u>comparing</u> process procedure codes for comparing image resolution of [[an]] input image data and information of a predetermined standard resolution;

judging process procedure codes for judging <u>whether</u> the image data includes specific information relating to copy protection; <u>and</u>

controlling process procedure codes for controlling ~~not to work~~ <u>whether</u> the judging <u>should be initiated based</u> on ~~the basis of~~ the result of the comparing.

36. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

generating means for generating image resolution information for input image data;

first comparing means for comparing said generated image resolution information with a <u>first</u> predetermined ~~first~~ standard resolution;

second comparing means for comparing said generated image resolution information with a <u>second</u> predetermined ~~second~~ standard resolution;

data adding means for adding data to said input image data; and

judging means for judging whether <u>or not</u> said input image data includes specific information ~~or not~~;

wherein said data adding means <u>is controlled to perform the adding based on</u> <u>an output of said first comparing means</u> and said judging means ~~are~~ <u>is</u> controlled to perform the judging ~~add and to judge, respectively~~ based on <u>an output</u> ~~outputs~~ of said ~~first~~ ~~and~~ second comparing means.

37. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said first comparing means ~~judges~~ <u>determines</u> that the input image data has a

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low risk of counterfeiting in the case where image resolution of said input image is ~~not as~~ ~~large as~~ less than said first predetermined ~~first~~ standard resolution.

38. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said second comparing means ~~judges~~ determines that the image data has a high risk of counterfeiting in the case where image resolution of said input image is at least as large as said second predetermined ~~second~~ standard resolution and processing by both said data adding means and said judging means is performed.

39. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said second comparing means ~~judges~~ determines that the input image data does not have a low risk of counterfeiting in the case where image resolution of said input image is at least as large as said second predetermined ~~second~~ standard resolution and processing by one of said data adding means and said judging means is performed.

40. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said second comparing means ~~judges~~ determines that the input image data does not have a low risk of counterfeiting in the case where image resolution of said input image is at least as large as said second predetermined ~~second~~ standard resolution and processing by both of said data adding means and said judging means is performed.

41. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim

36, wherein said judging means also judges whether <u>or not</u> a copy-prohibited object image is included in said input image data <s>or not</s>.

42. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said judging means also judges whether <u>or not</u> a predetermined digital watermark is attached <u>to</u> <s>in</s> said image data <s>or not</s>.

43. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 36 further comprising output means for outputting a result of said judging means, [[;]]

wherein said output means outputs a signal indicating <u>that</u> said image data includes said specific information <s>in case</s> <u>when</u> said judging means judges <u>that</u> <s>said</s> image data inputted <u>using</u> <s>said</s> input means includes specific information.

44. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:

<u>a</u> generating step for generating image resolution information for input image data;

<u>a</u> first comparing step for comparing said generated image resolution information with a <u>first</u> predetermined <s>first</s> standard resolution;

<u>a</u> second comparing step for comparing said generated image resolution information with a <u>second</u> predetermined <s>second</s> standard resolution;

<u>a</u> data adding step for adding data to said input image data; and

<u>a</u> judging step for judging whether <u>or not</u> said input image data includes

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specific information or not;

wherein said data adding step is controlled to perform adding based on a result

of said first comparing step and said judging step are is controlled to perform judging add

and to judge, respectively based on a result results of said first and second comparing step.

45. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 44,

wherein said first comparing step judges determines that the input image data has a low

risk of counterfeiting in the case where image resolution of said input image is not as large

as less than said first predetermined first standard resolution.

46. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 44,

wherein said second comparing step judges determines that the image data has a high risk

of counterfeiting in the case where image resolution of said input image is at least as large

as said second predetermined second standard resolution and processing by both said data

adding step and said judging step is performed.

47. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 44,

wherein said second comparing step judges determines that the input image data does not

have a low risk of counterfeiting in the case where image resolution of said input image is

at least as large as said second predetermined second standard resolution and processing by

one of said data adding step and said judging step is performed.

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48. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 47, wherein said second comparing step ~~judges~~ determines that the input image data does not have a low risk of counterfeiting in the case where image resolution of said input image is at least as large as said second predetermined ~~second~~ standard resolution and ~~performing processing~~ by both of said data adding step and said judging step is performed.

49. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 44, wherein said judging step also judges whether or not a copy-prohibited object image is included in said input image data ~~or not~~.

50. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 44, wherein said judging step also judges whether or not a predetermined digital watermark is included in said image data ~~or not~~.

51. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 44 further comprising an output step for outputting a result of said judging step;

wherein said output step outputs a signal indicating that said image data includes said specific information in the case where said judging step judges that said image data includes specific information.

52. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising a computer readable medium having computer program codes, for executing image processing, said

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product including:

generating procedure codes for generating image resolution information of input image data;

first comparing procedure codes for comparing said generated image resolution information with a first predetermined ~~first~~ standard resolution;

second comparing procedure codes for comparing said generated image resolution information with a second predetermined ~~second~~ standard resolution;

data adding ~~step~~ procedure codes for adding data to said input image data; and

judging procedure codes for judging whether or not said input image data includes specific information ~~or not~~;

wherein said data adding is controlled to perform adding based on a result of comparing by said first comparing procedure codes and said judging ~~are~~ is controlled to perform judging ~~add and to judge, respectively~~ based on a result of comparing by said ~~first~~ ~~and~~ second comparing procedure codes.